

STAT

WWD (Washington) and
CBS Networks

JUNE 27, 1960

MEMO OF SENATOR MORSE

Capitol Clockroom, at 12:30 P.M. over WWD (Washington) and the
CBS Networks:

Senator Wayne Morse, Democrat of Oregon, was interviewed and the following was heard, in part:

QUESTION: "One theory holds that it was Communist China, in part at least, which persuaded Khrushchev to torpedo the summit because it was against his closer relationships with the West. Do you have any real feeling that Communist China would encourage the Soviet to do that at Geneva?"

ANSWER: "Well, first let me say that there are a number of problems with mixed responses. The breaking of the summit conference is such a problem. The United States must share some of the responsibility for that breaking too, because you simply, in my judgment, cannot justify the use of the U-2 plane for espionage work, and history is going to record a verdict against us for that course of action. That, you see, gave Khrushchev the (handle!) that he was looking for; that gave him the signal that he could give for breaking up the summit conference. I happen to believe that if it hadn't been for the U-2 plane incident there would have been a formal withdrawal, but it wouldn't have accomplished anything, because I think Khrushchev at the conference would have taken a completely negative position, and would not have agreed to anything."

QUESTION: "Senator, to qualify what you just said when you said you cannot justify the use of the U-2, do you mean at any time or do you mean so soon before the summit conference?"

ANSWER: "At any time."

QUESTION: "At any time?"

ANSWER: "At any time--"

QUESTION: "And against all espionage of that sort--"

ANSWER: "Oh, all espionage that uses an instrument of war. I'm for espionage within the definition of international security that involves covered espionage, and I sit in the Senate of the United States and vote hundreds of millions of dollars for espionage work, but we always thought we were dealing with personnel work. There was never a whisper to any of us that there was going to be a constructive invasion by way of an instrument of war of any foreign power."

"Now don't forget, this U-2 plane is capable of carrying a hydrogen bomb and the great danger is that some hysteria, some time in some country, is going to make a false assumption as to what is in one of these planes and the trigger on the first hydrogen bomb will be pulled by such a hysteria and you're never going to have time